!
...
WOW, SERIOU-SLY?
Spotted Flower
SHIMOKU No. 13

SO I FOUND A STRETCH MARK.
I TRIED REALLY HARD TO AVOID IT, BUT IT HAPPENED.
I even used cream to try and prevent them. It did not work.
HUH? STRETCH MARKS?
THAT'S WHEN YOUR SKIN CAN'T KEEP UP TO THE RATE YOUR BELLY EXPANDS, RIGHT?
WELL, YEAH, SORT OF.
Technically it's the dermis and subcutaneous tissue.
THEY SAY STRETCH MARKS NEVER GO AWAY COMPLETELY,
AND SOMETIMES YOU EVEN GET THEM LIKE, ALL OVER YOUR BELLY AND IT LOOKS TERRIBLE
THE ONE I FOUND TODAY IS JUST TINY, BUT STILL
HMM...
WHAT'S IT LIKE?
...
WHAT?

I WAS JUST THINKING, KNOWING YOU,
YOU'LL PROBABLY FREAK OUT AGAIN IF YOU SEE IT
HUH?
WELL, UHH...
WOULD I?
WHAT, IS IT THAT GROSS?
WELL, NO, I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT TERRIBLE, BUT STILL...
IT'S JUST, YOU KNOW
I DON'T WANT TO SHOW YOU IF I CAN AVOID IT.
WELL THEN LET'S SEE IT
...WHAT?
IS IT JUST ME,
OR DO YOU LIKE THINGS MORE WHEN I DON'T LIKE DOING THEM?
like when we were talking about you being with me in the delivery room
WHA...
ギュッ
NO, I MEAN, NOT REALLY

...
...HMM?
WANNA LOOK?
FINE THEN.
LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.
I MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO USE THIS.
WAIT A SECOND
HMM?
YOU KNOW,

...HUH.
So that's what it looks like.
WELL, I THINK IT'S NOT SO BAD HAVING ONE THERE
REALLY? THAT'S A RELIEF
EVEN IF IT WAS ALL OVER YOUR BELLY...
WELL...
I... ERR GUESS IT'D BE OKAY?
...HEY...
...HUH?
OH, UHH, SURE
CAN I TUCK IT AWAY NOW?
YOU DON'T NEED TO ASK

...UMM ERR WHH
I MEAN
I THINK...
YOU KNOW,
I THINK I'D BETTER HAVE A LOOK AT THE REST OF YOUR BELLY,
JUST TO MAKE SURE
LIKE THIS...?
...HO-NESTLY, YOU.
WHAT? BUT IT'S COLD.
OH, COME ON

OH.
AHEM
ERR
OKAY, I'VE SEEN ENOUGH
It's not that bad at all!
YOU CAN LOWER YOUR SHIRT NOW
THANKS!
Oh, almost forgot there's still dinner to eat.
...
...OH, NOW I GET IT.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

THE MORE HE LIKES IT...
SO THE MORE EMBARRASSED I GET,
...FINALLY!
FINALLY, I'VE FOUND A WINNING STRATEGY!
Wait, so it took me how many years to notice something this simple?
YES
OH, NOTHING
SOMETHING THE MATTER?
CONTINUE?
YES / NO
Fin